

City of Deer Park  
City Council Committee Meeting  
Municipal Building  
December 2, 2013

Mr. Berens opened the meeting, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Legislative and Finance**

### Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Berens introduced Mr. Jay Stewart to give an overview of the comprehensive plan update. Mr. Stewart explained that the plan was created in 2007 and needs to be updated every 5 years. The initial plan was adopted right before the recession, so there are not a lot of changes needed. The updates will include the Blue Ash Road Corridor, update the zoning map and district changes, and a regional view and possible partnerships. The OKI Planning Department has offered to help with the process at no charge. The update process will take 6-7 months, with a total of 10 meetings. The entire plan will be reviewed, centering around economic development and land use. Mrs. Hedger motioned to move forward with the update and Mr. Lehane seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

### HB 92 – Needle Exchange

Mr. Berens reported Deer Park is on the cutting edge for limiting needle exchanges in our community. Mr. Tassell reported it is unconstitutional to ban them, but we can use zoning to regulate them. Mrs. Hedger stated she is concerned about litigation against the City if we try to prevent them from opening in Deer Park. Mr. Stewart added the issue is similar to sexually oriented businesses. Deer Park could lead the charge, but could face litigation. They cannot be zoned out of the City, but the zoning code can be updated to limit where they could open. Mr. Tassell feels we need to do our due diligence and be prepared. Mr. Berens and Mr. Helmes will continue to watch this issue, as well as investigate zoning regulations.

### P&C Insurance

Ms. Newsom asked Mr. Berens about the decision on which insurance company he chose. Mr. Berens reported the Ohio Plan reduced their price, so we renewed with them.

### Sycamore Senior Center Donation

Mr. Berens reported we received a request for a donation from the Sycamore Senior Center. We gave the center \$500 in 2013. The center provides such services as Meals on Wheels to Deer Park residents. After discussion, Council agreed to vote on the donation at the December 9 Council Meeting.

### Bonding for City Officials

Mr. Berens reported certain city officials are required to be bonded. Our current bonds (\$5000 per person) have not been updated in years. Mr. Berens is recommending a minimum bond of \$50,000 per person, which will cost approximately \$100/per person, per year. This will be on the December 9 Council Agenda for approval.

### Welcoming Committee

Mrs. Hedger has been talking with other Deer Park residents about forming a welcoming committee. Mrs. Hedger would like to provide new residents with city information, etc. upon moving to Deer Park. Mrs. Hedger is working on setting up a committee.

### **Safety**

#### Police and Fire Department Monthly Reports

The Police report and Fire Report will be available next week.

### **Public Works**

#### Redmont SCIP

Mr. Berens reported our application for SCIP funding for Redmont Avenue has been approved by the integrating committee. Funding for the project is likely. We will know for sure later this month.

#### Handicap Parking

Mrs. Hedger presented information about on-street handicap parking. Mr. Berens voiced concerns, such as fire lane issues and liability issues. Mr. Tassell stated it is worth looking into and recommending contacting CASS (Cincinnati Area Senior Services) for their ADA expertise. Mrs. Hedger will continue to research the issue and report back to Council.

### **Schedule:**

- City Council Meeting, Monday, December 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Deer Park Municipal Building, 7777 Blue Ash Road.
- City Council Meeting, Monday, December 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Deer Park Municipal Building, 7777 Blue Ash Road.
- Installation of City Officials, Wednesday, January 1, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. Deer Park Municipal Building, 7777 Blue Ash Road.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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Joseph W. Comer  
President of Council

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Meredith L. George  
Clerk of Council